RT66-2231

ROUTE 66 WAS CERTIFIED IN 1926

WHEN THE NATION ADOPTED A NUMBERED SYSTEM OF CROSS-COUNTRY, INTER-STATE ROADS. FULLY PAVED BY 1936, ROUTE 66 BECAME AN IMPORTANT— & LEGENDARY— HIGHWAY, "IMMORTALIZED" IN LITERATURE, MUSIC, & ON TELEVISION. GRADUALLY "REPLACED" BY HUGE, HOMOGENEOUS "INTERSTATES," 66 WAS DECERTIFIED IN 1985, CEASING TO EXIST "OFFICIALLY." BUT WELL OVER 80% OF THE OLD ROAD IS STILL DRIVEABLE— SO, TRAVEL BACK IN TIME, & LEAVE THE STRESS BEHIND —ON THE INTERSTATES... AND THEN, YOU TOO WILL SAY: "I STILL GET MY KICKS, ON OLD ROUTE 66."

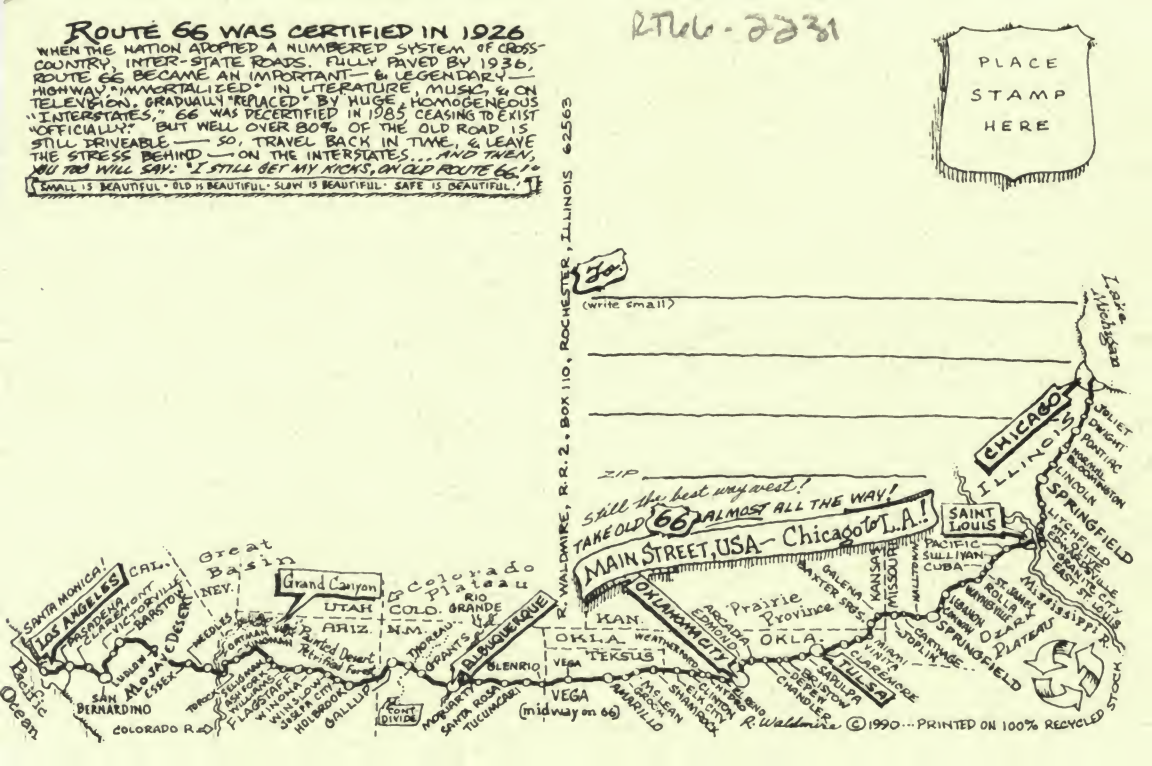
SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL • OLD IS BEAUTIFUL • SLOW IS BEAUTIFUL • SAFE IS BEAUTIFUL.

PLACE STAMP HERE

R. WALDMIRE, R.R. 2, BOX 110, ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS 62563

To:
(write small)

ZIP



R. Waldmire © 1990 ... PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED

THE RUGGED BLACK MOUNTAINS STRETCH 100 MILES ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER. OATMAN NESTLES ON THE WESTERN FLANKS, SURROUNDED BY SPECTACULAR, GEOLOGICALLY-RECENT VOLCANIC FORMATIONS, INCLUDING THE "ELEPHANTS TOOTH" (LEFT). THE FERAL BURROS ARE RIGHT AT HOME HERE.
INN HOTEL
OATMAN HOTEL BLDG.
OATMAN HOTEL
LEE LUMBER CO
BUCKET OF BLOOD
BOOTS FOOD
CACTUS PATCH
R.W. Waldmire © 1990
OLD 66 WESTBOUND

OATMAN, ARIZONA (ALT. 2,400–2,600 FT.)—

BORN IN 1906 AS A TENT CAMP, THIS PICTURESQUE TOWN FLOURISHED AS A GOLD-MINING CENTER, PRODUCING OVER $36,000,000 IN GOLD BY 1931 (AT THE 1930 GOLD PRICE OF $20 PER OUNCE). THE OATMAN REGION REPUTEDLY HAD A POPULATION OF 15,000—THE TOWN HAD A MOVIE HOUSE, BANK, NEWSPAPER & REAL ESTATE OFFICES. THE MINES WERE CLOSED IN 1942 AS "NON-ESSENTIAL TO THE WAR EFFORT." MOST OF THE MINING POPULATION MOVED ON, BUT THE TOWN SURVIVED BECAUSE ITS MAIN STREET WAS U.S. 66!—"CARRYING THE COUNTRY WEST."

THE FINAL BLOW CAME TO OATMAN IN 1951, WHEN TRAFFIC FELL SILENT, AS THE RIBBON WAS CUT, OPENING THE NEW RT. 66 ALIGNMENT BETWEEN KINGMAN & TOPOCK, LEAVING THE TOWN HIGH & DRY.

BUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE TOWN—WITH ITS "STAR RESIDENTS" THE WILD BURROS, LURE TOURISTS BY THE DROVES, TO SEE SUCH THINGS AS THE ROOM CAROLE LOMBARD & CLARK GABLE HONEYMOONED IN!